



New Castle Crier

The official newsletter of New Castle City

Vol. 1, Iss. 1

February 2007

New newsletter launched for New Castle City

Welcome!...

...to the first edition of the *New Castle Crier* newsletter. This newsletter has been created to keep New Castle residents informed about City government.

Each month, the City will publish the newsletter with updated information important for City residents. Thanks to the Municipal Services Commission (MSC) for including this newsletter with utility bills, saving taxpayer dollars on postage.

We welcome feedback and suggestions — please call New Castle City Administrator Cathie Thomas, at 322-9812, or send mail to 220 Delaware St., New Castle (19720), or e-mail comments or suggestions to: cathrynthomas@newcastlecity.org.

How will the Yard Waste Ban affect You?

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) has banned all yard waste from the Cherry Island Landfill, operated by the Delaware Solid Waste Authority (DSWA), effective January 1, 2007. This was done as part of the renewal permit for operation of the landfill, which also allows for its expansion. To extend the life of the landfill for as long as possible, however, the yard waste ban has been put into effect. This affects residents of the City of New Castle, as this landfill is the sole site the City uses for disposal of solid waste.

Yard waste is defined as grass clippings, leaves, brush and branches up to six-inches in diameter, dirt free garden debris and landscape trimmings. This also includes Christmas trees, wreaths and garland.

Currently, the City collects yard waste seasonally* each Wednesday and transports it to a recycling area. Yard waste will continue to be picked up on Wednesdays *only*. ***Positively no mixture of yard waste with household trash will be collected.*** Any yard waste mixed in with trash will be left curbside. ***All yard waste must be kept separate from household trash.***

It is very important to note that the City, as a hauler of yard waste and municipal trash, is liable for any fines levied by DNREC for hauling yard waste mixed with municipal trash to the landfill. The City cannot afford to risk fines, or worse, the loss of our hauling permit with DNREC and the DSWA.

It is imperative that all residents separate all yard waste from the regular trash. Violators will be issued citations and fined in accordance with provisions of the City Code.

There are currently no records which track the amount of yard waste generated or a means to evaluate the true impact this ban will have on the City. Records will be kept in 2007 to establish the quantities and evaluate the impact.

The City intends to provide information with regards to the ban and its impact on operations in future newsletters and on the City Web site at: www.newcastlecity.org. There is also more information on the yard waste ban available on the DNREC Web site at www.dnrec.delaware.gov.

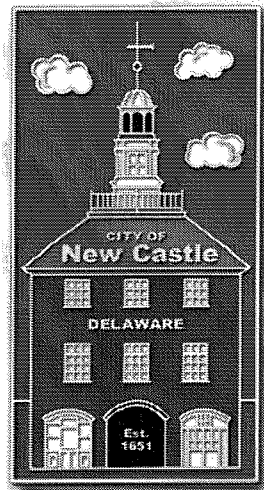
Please call the Public Works Section of the Public Services Department, at 322-9813, with any questions about the Yard Waste Ban or other solid waste or trash collection matters.

*This is done approximately April through November. See the City Calendar for exact dates.

New Castle – The First Capital City!

New City pins available

The City has created a new City lapel pin. The full-color pin is available at many City retailers and some local museum stores. The City name is shown on the pin (shown larger than actual size) inside the roof of the historic Town Hall building on Delaware Street. Inside the archway, the date the City was first established is shown as 1651.



This rendering of the Town Hall is historically correct, however is slightly different from the current look of the building, that has symmetrical doorways and windows on each side of the archway. The building depicted on the pin, dated anywhere from 1940-1960, shows the left side of the archway with one door and windows and the right side with double doors.

Code Enforcement Corner

By John Lloyd, Code Enforcement Officer

Editor's Note: The Code Enforcement Corner is planned to be a regular feature in this newsletter. Each month, Code Enforcement Officer John Lloyd will feature segments of codes that he handles. It is hoped the public education provided may avert future violations on City properties.

The City of New Castle Board of Health strives to keep properties in conformance with adopted rules and codes. To report any problems or file a complaint, please call 302-323-6081.

Listed below are a few of the more pertinent policies.

Miscellaneous property maintenance

This includes a variety of code sections regarding the maintenance of the interior and exterior of structures (i.e. doors, roofing, walls, ceilings, etc.). These violations are set forth in both the New Castle City Code and the International Property Maintenance Code.

Snow shoveling

Within 24 hours after the end of a snow storm, property owners are required to clear a three-foot wide path on the sidewalk for pedestrians. Also, when digging vehicles out, please do not put the snow into the street.

Stored vehicles

The City Code has rules relating to unregistered, inoperable, dismantled or wrecked vehicles. Unless stored in a fully enclosed structure, all vehicles are to be properly registered and operable at all times. Placing a tarp or cover over the vehicle does not satisfy the requirement of a fully enclosed structure.

Looking for contact information for a City official or service?
See the listing in the City Calendar for the month of February.

City Calendars mailed in January

The 2007 Annual Report Calendar was mailed in January to all New Castle City households and businesses. The City uses labels provided by the MSC utility, ensuring anyone with MSC service receives a copy.

The annual calendar has become a New Castle City government tradition, providing important information on meeting dates for the City Council, the Trustees of New Castle Common, MSC and other City commissions, boards and committees. Many community events are also included.

Each month includes messages from the Mayor and City Council and features different departments, recapping previous year activities and detailing department functions so citizens know how the City may assist them.

Property Tax Exemptions

For information on applying for the Over 65 or Disability exemption, call Marian Delaney at 322-9811. Yearly income requirements: \$12,500 single and \$25,000 married. Social Security is not counted. Last day to apply is June 15th.

Election Reminders

Deadline for Candidates to File to Run for Elected City Offices: February 23

Absentee Ballots Available Beginning: March 7

Deadline to Submit Absentee Ballot: Noon on April 13

City Election: Saturday, April 14 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Good-Will Fire Co.